thetech.com



WEATHER, p. 2 FRI: 31°F | 28°F Sunnv SAT: 48°F | 31°F Partly Sunny

Volume 137, Number 39 Thursday, January 25, 2018

MIT announces new consensual relationships policy

Policy prohibits romantic, sexual relationships with power imbalance

By Emma Bingham and Whitney Zhang STAFF REPORTERS

Provost Martin Schmidt, Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88, and Vice President for Human Resources Lorraine Goffe announced to the MIT community last Friday the release of MIT's new consensual relationships policy. The policy broadly bans any consensual sexual or romantic relationship between MIT faculty, staff, graduate student, or undergraduate student when one party holds authority over the other.

"Relationships based on asymmetries of power affect the entire

community and undermine our sense of fairness and integrity," David Singer, chair of the Committee on Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response (CSMPR), who led the policy's development, said in an interview with The Tech.

The policy bans all sexual or romantic relationships between faculty or staff and undergraduates. The policy also prohibits relationships between graduate and undergraduate students when one party has authority over the other, such as relationships between students and Graduate Resident Tutors or Teach-

Relationships, Page 2



MIT economics professor Daron Acemoglu speaks about populism and the rise of Trump

US gov. shutdown interrupts Course 1 IAP research project Group had to relocate after Hawaii

Volcanoes National Park was closed

By Sharon Chao

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

A government shutdown began midnight Jan. 20 and lasted three days before Congress passed a short-term spending bill to fund government operations through Feb. 8.

For MIT, the shutdown affected students doing field work at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, as part of the IAP research course Traveling Research Environmental Experiences (TREX). Offered by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, TREX consists of one week of lectures and prep work at MIT, followed by a two week trip to Hawaii where they collect and analyze field sample data before publically presenting it.

TREX participants arrived in Ha-

waii the evening of Jan. 17 and started field work Jan. 19. According to lead instructor Professor Benjamin Kocar in an email to The Tech, they were originally staying at Kilauea Military Camp, which was inside the national park and close to their primary point of interest, Halemaumau Crater.

However, due to ongoing eruption at certain parts of Kilauea Volcano and the lapse in government funding, portions of Volcanoes National Park were closed for visitor safety. The TREX group was evicted Jan. 22 and had to relocate to a small house in Volcano. "It is generally working well for us, albeit re-packing and unpacking our field equipment and mobile laboratory consumed at least a day,

Shutdown, Page 2

Economics professors present at 'State of the Union' symposium Panels cover social policy, financial regulation, and populism

By Jessica Shi

The Department of Economics hosted a "State of the Union" symposium Wednesday. The event comprised of three panel discussions that focused on major policy issues in the Trump era.

"Professor Marios Angeletos suggested the department organize an event to allow the MIT community to hear from scholars who have been studying these [economic policy issues, sometimes for decades," Department Head Nancy Rose wrote in an email sent to The Tech.

"We hope this gives our community a better understanding of facts and research that bear what's being said and written in the popular realm; and to hear from some of the people who have been involved in policy making in these spaces," Rose continued.

Social policy

The first panel, titled "Social Policy: Taxation, Health Care and Social Security," consisted of Professors Amy Finkelstein, Jon Gruber, and Jason Poterba; Professor Emeritus Peter Diamond; and Harvard Professor Jason Furman.

Poterba and Furman presented their analyses of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA), which was signed into law Dec. 22.

"Many of you, depending on which media outlets you read, probably heard that this was just a gigantic giveaway to the rich, and that was the best you could say about this tax reform," Poterba said. "The first thing I'm going to say is that that's not true.'

Instead, Poterba argued, the TCJA was informed by a delineable set of motivations. In particular, corporate tax cuts could allow U.S. firms to be more competitive in the global market.

Throughout the past several decades, the U.S. has maintained a fairly stable federal corporate tax rate of around 35 percent, according to Poterba. But whereas this number once fell in the lower end of the global spectrum, the distribution has shifted over time, and today, the U.S.'s rate is now significantly above the worldwide average of 22 percent.

The TCJA lowers the corporate tax rate to 21 percent. However, Poterba continued, that may be taking it too far. Smaller subsets of countries that the U.S. is a part of, such as G7 and G20, have average corporate tax rates much closer to the U.S.'s former rate (29.6 percent and 28 percent, respectively).

Poterba also addressed the "very high-end tilt" of these reforms: according to the Congressional Budget Office's allocation, most of the burden of corporate taxes lie with the owners of corporate capital that is, the shareholders; naturally, then, these will also be the groups that benefit the most from the corporate tax cuts.

Furman's assessment of the

State of the Union, Page 3

Prof. Eric Lander named likely shortlist candidate for Harvard pres., Lander expects to remain at MIT

Harvard Medical School Dean George Daley named Eric Lander, MIT biology professor and Broad Institute president, as a candidate who is "almost certainly" on the shortlist for Harvard's next president, The Harvard Crimson reported earlier this month.

Daley did not have "direct knowledge of the search, though he has been formally and informally consulted by the

search committee," The Crimson

"I was surprised to learn that speculation by someone who said they had no knowledge of the process was even being reported," Lander wrote in an email to The Tech Sunday. "For my part, I fully expect to be teaching 7.012 at MIT next fall and continuing to be doing science!"

The current shortlist is expect-

ed to contain fewer than 20 names. Lander was also named as one of the scientists in consideration to be added to the list of finalists for Harvard president in 2007, according to previous coverage by The Crimson. That search process ended with the selection of Drew Faust, Harvard's current president and an American historian, who

will step down in June 2018. — Jessica Shi

IN SHORT

Registration for third quarter P.E. classes opens Wednesday, Jan. 31

Registration for spring semester classes opens Monday, Jan. 29.

There is no single add/drop date for IAP, but students may not drop subjects after submitting the final assignment or examination. Students should submit online add/drop forms to make registration changes.

The Tech is looking for news and sports writers. Please write to *join@* tech.mit.edu to get started.

Like us on Facebook @TheMITTech!

Send news and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

KEEPING UP WITH THE ATHLETES

What's happening this week with MIT sports teams? SPORTS, p. 12

COOKING MISADVENTURES

Maybe I should return to the meal plan. CAMPUS LIFE, p. 8

CLIMATE COSTS

We must set a price on carbon before it makes us pay. OPINION, p. 4



SIR? MA'AM?

Making peace with gender in this week's Plus Plus column. CAMPUS LIFE, p. 8

GREY AREAS

Why we need nuance in our conversations about sexual assault. OPINION, p. 4

SECTIONS

Οριπιοπ 4
Arts 7
Campus Life 8
Fun Pages 9
Cnorto 12

WEATHER

Oscillating weather continues

By Sarah Weidman

The northeast has experienced an interesting oscillation of temperature and precipitation this winter, and this week was no different. Temperatures warmed up after the cold end of last week, and are expected to rise again after today's cold spell. The heavy rainstorm earlier this week will be followed by several days of sun, but expect another wet few days starting on Sunday as a low pressure system rolls in from the south. Depending on the temperature, this system could result

in snow later next week.

Meanwhile, in other parts of the country, north Texas experienced its first tornadoes of the year this past week. At least twenty homes were destroyed by a tornado in a city in northeast Texas, and several other twisters were recorded in the surrounding area. Tornadoes can occur all winter in the Deep South, but due to the cold, dry winter in the area so far, these were some of the first few tornadoes since mid-December. Tornado season will be here in full force in just a few months.

Extended Forecast

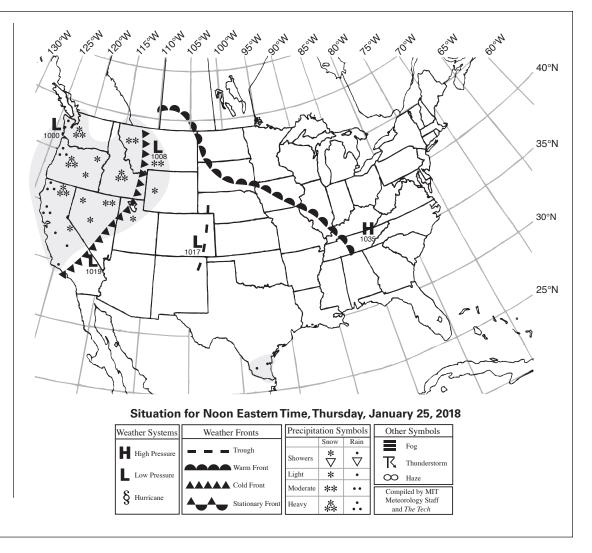
Today: Partly Sunny. High around 25 °F (-4 °C). Northwest winds at 10-15 mph.

Tonight: Mostly Clear. Low around 17 °F (-8 °C). Northwest winds at 10-15 mph.

Tomorrow: Sunny. High around 31 °F (-1 °C) and low around 18 °F (-8 °C). Northwest winds at 5-10 mph.

Saturday: Partly Sunny. High around 48 $^{\circ}$ F (9 $^{\circ}$ C) and low around 31 $^{\circ}$ F (-1 $^{\circ}$ C).

Sunday: Cloudy, with a high chance of rain. High around 46 °F (8 °C).



Policy applies to prior relationships as well

Relationships, from Page 1

ing Assistants.

Faculty and staff are prohibited from relationships with graduate students if they are in any position of power over the students.

Furthermore, supervisors and mentors, such as Principal Investigators, are prohibited from relationships with those they supervise.

CSMPR also met with MIT's professional education programs to ensure that the policies would be equally applicable to online learners and instructors of open online classes. The policy only applies to professors who have "academic authority" over the students in their online classes, Singer said. This distinction was made because many of these online instructors only provide lectures and materials but do not have authority over students.

Regarding the policy's enforcement, Singer emphasized that first and foremost, it is "up to members of the community to know what the rules are." According to MIT's Human Resources website, supervisors are required to "put in place adequate alternative supervisory arrangements once they have knowledge of a policy violating relationship."

Singer also said that outside parties like HR, the Title IX Office, and Violence Prevention and Response can be contacted to help enforce this policy.

In an email last November, President L. Rafael Reif emphasized the need for a "baseline of sound policies against harassment" and studying and strengthening policies

where necessary.

The policy revision was first brought up in CSMPR in Spring 2016. Previously, MIT only had a conflict of interest policy which "simply noted that sexual relationships could prompt conflicts of interest," Singer said, but did not provide details or guidance.

According to Singer, interest first sparked when CSMPR and MIT administration recognized that MIT, unlike all of its peer institutions, did not have a consensual relationships policy.

In 2016, CSMPR, a 32-member committee of undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and staff, began working with the Provost, Chancellor, HR department, Office of the General Counsel, and Marianna Pierce, the lead policy drafter for MIT employment policies, to draft the policy.

The group sought feedback from Faculty Officers, Heads of House, the GRT Council, the Dean's Group, the Graduate Student Council, a group of EECS graduate and undergraduate TAs, the Faculty Policy Committee, and the Academic Council.

GSC President Sarah Goodman G wrote to *The Tech* on behalf of the GSC officers that they were "pleased to see that the administration is taking the matter of the conflict of interest arising from consensual relationships seriously."

Goodman wrote that they were happy to see their feedback was taken into account, including "the definition of 'academic authority' [which] is broad enough to cover 'participating in decisions on academic status,' which covers qualifying exams decisions, and 'participat-

ing in decisions on funding or other resources affecting students,' which cover cases impacting a graduate student's ability/authorization to use lab funds for research."

Goodman also highlighted that the policy "covers *prior* relationships as well as current." For example, if faculty or staff had had a prior relationship with a graduate student, he or she is not allowed to exercise authority on that graduate student.

However, Goodman was cautious to remark on the effects of this policy. "Of course, as with any policy, what will matter more than the policy on paper will be its enforcement," Goodman wrote. "We hope that no adverse effects will come from parties willfully misinterpreting the policy."

Mark Goldman G, a staff reporter for *The Tech*, pointed out that while he supports this policy, it may create problems for students who may already be or were previously in relationships with their thesis advisors. Students may have to switch advisors and thus restart their thesis, according to Goldman. Singer was hesitant to comment on this hypothetical situation but stated that it was the faculty member's responsibility to manage this potential conflict of interest.

CSMPR will continue to work on this policy as well as other programs, such as. Singer encouraged feedback on this policy and other policies for future policy revisions. Other tasks include Title IX training for current faculty and staff who have not yet received training and the drafting a sexual misconduct policy.

Mayor corrects 'misinformation' on Trader Joe's, says property owners intend to keep store open

Cambridge Mayor Marc Mc-Govern, who wrote to *The Tech* in an emailed statement Jan. 15 that he had heard the Trader Joe's on Memorial Drive would "have to leave" due to redevelopment of the area by Kimco Realty, updated his position Jan. 18.

"It appears I may have received some misinformation. I am so glad Kimco has decided to keep Trader Joe's in Cambridge! They have become a staple in our community," McGovern tweeted Jan. 18. His comment was in response to a tweet by Karleigh Moore G, chairman of *The Tech*, which linked to *The Tech*'s article on the possibility of Trader Joe's closing.

"I had heard from community sources that the Trader Joes [sic] / Microcenter property on Memorial Drive had been sold and was going to be redeveloped, resulting in Trader Joes having to close. I have since become aware via a statement by the new property owners that the information I had was incorrect and that Trader Joes will not close," McGovern wrote in an email to *The Tech* Jan. 18.

"This is good news as the loss of this market would negatively impact the Cambridgeport neighborhood specifically and the City as a whole," Mc-

Govern continued.

Jennifer Maisch, Director of Corporate Communications at Kimco Realty, wrote in an email to *The Tech* Jan. 17 that "there are no plans for Trader Joe's to close" and that "there are no formalized plans [for the redevelopment of Memorial Plaza] at this time."

Editor's note: The Tech noted this discrepancy between Mc-Govern and Maisch's information in its original coverage, after informing McGovern of Maisch's statement and asking for clarification on what the reason for it might be and what his sources were.

McGovern's response was quoted in part in the original article and is included in full here: "My information came from community sources who said that the site was being redeveloped. I'm sorry but I have given you all the information I can about this. I was told that the site was being redeveloped and Trader Joe's was closing. That is why I made that statement."

McGovern did not re-classify his original statement as "misinformation," as he later did in his tweet, at the time.

— Jessica Shi

DO YOU WANT TO BE LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES?

THE TECH IS LOOKING FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS.

DO YOU LIKE ASKING TOUGH QUESTIONS?

DO YOU ENJOY NOSING AROUND AND COLLECTING EVIDENCE?

IF SO, WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM!

JOIN@TECH.MIT.EDU





Thursday, January 25, 2018 THE TECH 3

MIT precincts see significant voter increase in 2017 Cambridge local elections MITVote2017 group formed to engage students in politics

By Mark Goldman

Since the 2016 presidential election, there has been a rise in political activity at MIT Some of the initiatives, like Solidarity MIT, the MIT Women's March Liaisons, and the Graduate Student Council's 's "Call Your Congressman" campaign, oppose specific Republican-backed initiatives in government. Other efforts, like the student-run MIT-Vote2017, strive to increase student participation in government without an official stance on policy issues.

In November 2017, Cambridge held City Council and school board elections. These local elections typically have lower overall turnout and dramatically lower student turnout than the well-publicized presidential elections. Some students saw this election as an opportunity to engage the student body in local politics and formed MITVote2017. The group consisted of approximately ten active organizers, as well as graduate and undergraduate liaisons who helped spread information to departments and dorms.

Leading up to the election, MIT-Vote2017 put up posters with graphs highlighting the lack of student representation in Cambridge local elections. It organized voter registration drives at MIT libraries and broadcasted information about the polling locations and candidates, in order to lower potential student voting barriers. On election day, MITVote2017 ran a booth to educate voters about the candidates and the ranked choice voting process.

After the election, Davi da Silva G, the chair of MITVote2017, analyzed the change in voter turnout from the 2015 local election to gauge the effectiveness of MITVote2017's work.

In Cambridge as a whole, the number of voters increased by 40%, from about 16,000 in 2015 to about 22,500 in 2017, according to da Silva. For voters under 30, the turnout more than doubled.

The Cambridge precincts with the largest increases in voter turnout were the two that encompass most of MIT's residence halls, according to da Silva. Precinct 2-2, which includes west campus dorms, experienced a 250% increase. Precinct 2-3, which includes East Campus, 70 Amherst, Eastgate, and non-student housing, experienced an 85%

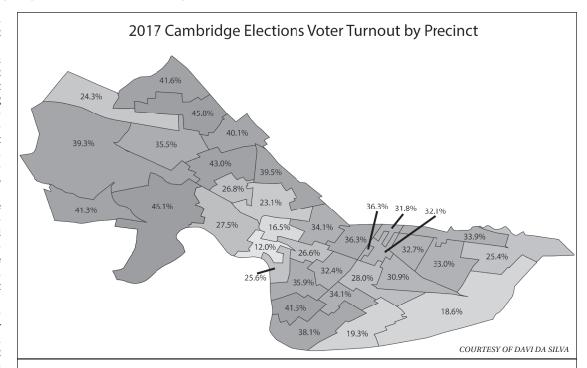
When asked if the increase in the number of voters was due to MIT-Vote2017, da Silva wrote in an email to The Tech. "As with most social science observations, it's tricky to prove causality. But given the trends ... we're fairly confident in the impact of our work."

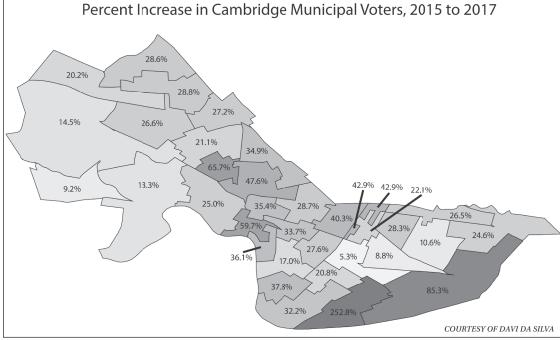
Harvard student Nadya Okamoto's '20 run for City Council may have also affected voter turnout. Okamoto obtained the most first choice rankings of any candidate in the MIT precincts 2-2 and 2-3 and Harvard precinct 8-3.

However, MIT students were still greatly underrepresented. MIT precincts 2-2 and 2-3, along with Harvard precincts 7-3 and 8-3, had the four lowest voter turnout rates in Cambridge. In the 2017 election, more retirees voted than students, despite the fact that there are four times as many students in the Cambridge voter database.

Da Silva also broke down the data by living group. Among MIT undergraduate dorms in Cambridge, East Campus had the most voters (57), followed by Simmons (33), and Burton-Conner (30). Graduate dorms generally had lower turnouts, with Westgate topping the list at 23 voters, followed by Sidney-Pacific with 14.

For the next election, MIT-Vote2017 plans to lead more initiatives, such as a dorm competition to encourage voter turnout.





Individual mandate repeal essentially shrinks ACA into 'entitlement program,' Prof. Gruber says

State of the Union, from Page 1 of the market. But many of the peo-

TCJA was far more critical.

There's a lot of different ways to judge a public policy. I tend to be pretty unabashedly about judging it in terms of the consequences it has for people," Furman began wryly, to the chuckles of his co-panelists.

"If you take just about any metric of inequality that we have, aftertax inequality would be higher as a result of this legislation rather than lower," Furman said, and the disparities would get worse as time goes on. (The TCJA contains several provisions that will expire or

Shifting away from Poterba's emphasis on statutory tax rates, Furman evaluated the TCJA's impact on effective marginal tax rates instead, concluding that it would lead to around 10 percent less R&D (research and development)

Gruber spoke on the current status and future prospects of U.S. health insurance.

Gruber was "a key architect of the 2006 Massachusetts healthcare reform" (Romneycare), panel moderator Finkelstein explained, and he also "worked with the Obama administration and the Congress in crafting the 2010 Affordable Care Act" (Obamacare).

Gruber first addressed the recent attempts to dismantle the

The TCJA repeals the individual mandate portion of the ACA, but this has an ironic effect, Gruber argued. Premiums will skyrocket. which will drive those who can no longer afford health insurance out

ple who gained health insurance through the ACA are subsidized such that they only pay a fixed percentage of their income, regardless of how high the premiums are so they will remain relatively unharmed.

In other words, removing the individual mandate essentially "shrink[s] the ACA to an entitlement program for low income people," Gruber said.

For the long term, Gruber emphasized the importance of remaining humble and patient: humble since no one actually understands how to control healthcare costs without reducing healthcare quality, so experimentation is necessary; patient, since the problem of rising healthcare costs does not have to be solved immediately. or even within the next decade, as the U.S. economy is robust enough to devote a significant percentage of its GDP ("we could easily spend 25 percent," Gruber said) to support healthcare programs.

Financial regulation

The second panel, "Financial (De) Regulation," was composed of MIT Professors Kristin Forbes, Deborah Lucas, and Ricardo Caballero; Visiting Professor Chester Spatt; and Harvard Professor Jeremy Stein.

Since the 2007 financial crisis, there has been a substantial shift in financial regulatory policy, according to Forbes.

This shift included a general realization that simply having monetary policy (keeping inflation under control through a central bank) and microprudential policy

(ensuring individual financial institutions have sufficient capital) were not enough, Forbes said. Instead, a third "M" also needed to be expanded: macroprudential policy, or the "oversight of the entire finan-

However, while macroprudential policy "can accomplish certain goals," it can also lead to unintended consequences, Forbes continued. Before such regulation is implemented, a cost-benefit analysis — the topic of Spatt's presentation can be used to weigh the risks.

"Cost-benefit analysis, potenlly, is about bringing ec analysis to bear and trying to think about regulation sensibly, or at least that's what it should be," Spatt explained. "Just measuring things differently can actually have huge differences in policy."

Lucas spoke on housing finance reform, citing the housing market bubble and meltdown as "ground zero" of the 2008 financial crisis. There has been "little progress on regulatory reform," Lucas said. Although there have been a handful of promising bipartisan bills (the Corker-Warner Housing Finance Reform and Taxpayer Protection Act, introduced in 2013, for example), several key legislators have retired or are retiring, and even centrist proposals are often subjected to criticisms from both the right and the left, according to Lucas.

The rise of populism

The third and final panel, "Populism on the Rise: Causes and Consequences," was composed of MIT Professors Daron Acemoglu, John Van Reenen, and James Snyder; Professor Emeritus Michael

Piore; and Harvard Professor Dani Rodrik.

The panelists discussed various sources of the recent rise in populism, both in the U.S. with the election of Donald Trump and the candidacy of Bernie Sanders, as well as with the Brexit vote.

Manifestations of populism range from obvious examples like economic grievances to broader social and political trends, such as a general loss of trust in government institutions and heightened tensions between different societal groups, especially along racial lines, Acemoglu said

Rodrik examined historical populist movements (the U.S. People's Party, for example) and their correlation with globalization patterns. Rodrik also noted the differences between left-wing populism, characterized by income and social class cleavage, and right-wing populism, characterized by ethnonational and cultural cleavage.

Snyder emphasized the importance of "young people" as an underrepresented voting bloc. Young voters supported Clinton much more than Trump; Democrats much more than Republicans; and pro-immigrant views much more than anti-immigrant views, Snyder said, but their political influence is severely limited by low voter turn-

In addition to individual presentations, each panel also included some discussion among panelists, as well as a questionand-answer session with the audience at the end.

Fiona Chen and Whitney Zhang contributed reporting.

Government shutdown

Shutdown, from Page 1

and we're now doing our best to perform chemical measurements, etc. in a non-ideal location," Kocar said.

The delays caused by the government shutdown, coupled with heavy rain Jan. 23, have disrupted the group's planned research timeline. The unexpected relocation has put us behind schedule and the resulting constant crunchtime feeling has not been pleasant," Joseph Noszek '20 said in an email to *The Tech*. The students will give a public talk about their data analysis in Kona this Mon-

MIT's Lincoln Laboratory, which advances technology for national security and works with departments and agencies across the federal government, was "indirectly impacted by limited ability to interface with Government sponsors who have been furloughed, and certain contracting and financial functions that have been suspended," according to a press release. C. Scott Anderson, assistant director of operations, declined to specify the government

Fortunately, the lab prepared for the shutdown beforehand. "The Lincoln Laboratory Finance Department coordinated with their Government counterparts to accelerate invoicing and maximize the amount of cash available for Laboratory operations," Anderson wrote in an email to

A short-term spending bill was passed Jan. 23 and extends funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program for six years, but does not include concrete action on the issue of immigration.



Chairman Karleigh Moore G

Editor in Chief Vivian Zhong'19

Business Manager Christopher Wang '19

Managing Editor Áron Ricardo Perez-Lopez '20

> **Executive Editor** Emma Bingham '19

News Editors: Patrick Wahl '18, Anshula Gandhi '19: Associate News Editors: Zoe Anderson '21, Sheila Baber '21, Sharon Chao '21, Jessica Shi '21; Staff: Mark Goldman G, Tu-Lan Vu-Han G, Olivia Brode-Roger '17, Drew Bent '18, Marie Patino '18, Aishwarya Anantharaman '19, Divya Gopinath '19, Meenakshi Sivapriya '19, Rose E. Wang '20, Fiona Chen '21, Sandhya Kalavacherla '21, Whitney Zhang '21, Ivory Zhu '21; Meteorologists: Erik Lindgren G, Colin Thackray G, Vince Agard '11, Lily Dove '18, Jordan Benjamin '19.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Editor: Eber Nolasco-Martinez '20; Associate Editor: Ivana Alardin '21; Staff: Melissa Cao '20, Jierui Fang '20, Shannon Peng '20, Nina Wang '20, Sara Wilson '20, Jenny Chan '21, Alvin Zhu '21; Illustrators: Taksapaun Kittiakrastien '14, Jessie Wang '19.

OPINION STAFF

Editor: Steven Truong '20; Staff: Michael Beautyman G, Claire Lazar G, Keertan Kini '16, Isaac Silberberg '16, Daniel Perry '19.

Editors: Zachary Collins '19, Ahaan Rungta '19; Staff: Souparno Ghosh G, Yida Wang '19, Yueyang Ying '19.

ARTS STAFF

Editors: Nafisa Syed '19, Ivy Li '20; Associate Editors: Nathan Liang '21, Torri Yearwood '21; Staff: Josh Cowls G, Alexandra Sourakov '18, Ethan Vo '19, Mariam Dogar '20, Rona Wang '20, Erica Weng '20, Patricia Gao '21, Leah Yost '21.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Editor: Mahi Shafiullah '19; Associate Editors: Ho Yin Au '13, Damian Barabonkov '20; Staff: Skyler E. Adams '16, Sarah Liu '16, Adrian Butterworth '18, Tristan Honscheid '18, Daniel Mirny '18, Robert Rusch '18, Jisoo Min '19, Mati Alemayehu '20, Lily Bailey '20, Amy Shim '20, Johnny Bui '21, Sabrina Cheng '21, Adib Hasan '21, Sarah Wang '21, Anselmo Cassiano, Ping Xu.

Editor: Chloe Yang '19; Staff: Elaine Lin '18, Jing Lin '18, Nina Lutz '19, Michal Shlapentokh-Rothman '19.

Copy Chief: Josephine Yu '20; Associate Copy Chief: Samuel Nitz '21; Staff: Adira Balzac '21.

BUSINESS STAFF

Operations Manager: Mindy Wu '19; Staff: Angela Leong '18, Aaron Zeng '18, Catherine Looby '19, Marissa Steinmetz '19, Katherine Wang '19, Tafara Mashanda '20, Justen M. Holl '21, Sharon Lin '21, Adelynn Paik '21,

Director: Jiahao Li'18; Staff: Greg Steinbrecher G, Ray Wang '18, Kavya Ravichandran '20.

SOCIAL MEDIA STAFF

Editor: Hannah Rudoltz '18.

Senior Editor: Vivian Hu '18.

ADVISORY BOAR

Paul E. Schindler, Ir. '74, V. Michael Bove '83, Barry S. Surman '84, Deborah A. Levinson '91, Karen Kaplan '93, Saul Blumenthal '98, Frank Dabek '00, Satwiksai Seshasai '01, Daniel Ryan Bersak '02, Eric J. Cholankeril '02, Nathan Collins SM '03, Tiffany Dohzen '06, Beckett W. Sterner '06. Marissa Vogt '06. Andrew T. Lukmann '07, Zachary Ozer '07, Austin Chu '08, Michael McGraw-Herdeg '08, Marie Y. Thibault '08, Ricardo Ramirez '09, Nick Semenkovich '09, Angeline Wang '09, Quentin Smith '10, Jeff Guo '11, Joseph Maurer '12, Ethan A. Solomon '12, Connor Kirschbaum '13, Jessica J. Pourian '13, Aislyn Schalck '13, Anne Cai '14, Jessica L. Wass '14, Bruno Faviero '15, Kali Xu '15, Leon Lin '16, Kath Xu '16, Anthony Yu '16, Colleen Madlinger '17, William Navarre '17, Katherine Nazemi '17, B. D. Colen.

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editors: Eber Nolasco-Martinez '20, Áron Ricardo Perez-Lopez '20; Staff: Ivana Alardin '21, Jenny Chan '21, Alvin Zhu '21; Copy Editors: Josephine Yu '20, Adira Balzac '21, Samuel

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Thursdays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations) and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). POSTMAS-Nass, 02133-3 uniscriptions are 3-00.00 per year (limit class), POSI NASTER. Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, TELEPHONE: Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2018 The Tech. Printed by Turley Publications, Inc. **GUEST COLUMN**

Climate change and the terrifying cost of **being young**We must set the price on carbon

By Claire Halloran

"Refresh the page again!" Excited by the possibility of a snow day, my classmates and I huddle around a laptop in our dorm late at night. This time, the official announcement pops up on our school's web page: classes are canceled tomorrow due to severe weather. The entire room erupts into cheers as we look forward to a day of antics in the snow. Throughout the Boston area, students will wake up to a welcome surprise: a snow day.

While Massachusetts students like us have hoped for a few snow days every winter for generations, extreme weather events have recently begun to interfere with students' education across the world with unsettling frequency because of climate change. Thousands of schools recently closed in India due to unhealthy levels of air pollution, keeping millions of students out of school. The California fires shuttered schools as the state endured a winter blaze of unprecedented size. On the East Coast, we recently remembered the 5-year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy and the shutdowns it caused.

Climate change is projected to cost my generation over \$8.8 trillion in lifetime income. This means, if no action is taken to reduce carbon pollution, a 21-year-old today could be poorer by \$126,000 in their lifetime. Even without school closures interfering with students' educations, there is no amount of studying or hard work that can prepare millennials for the massive financial burden that we will inherit.

Study after study and article after article warn of the bleak financial future my generation will inherit. From debilitating student debt to stagnant salaries and a vanishing safety net, millennials are in dire financial straits. Human-caused global warming will only compound this problem. We must hold the older generations who dominate our political system to their obligation to act on climate change, and act fast.

The economic decisions we make today must account for both the future and immediate impacts to ensure my generation inherits an economy marked by prosperity rather than climate chaos. Ensuring a stable climate future requires bold legislative action on climate change. In Massachusetts, we have the opportunity to take such bold action by setting a price on carbon.

At present, we heavily subsidize fossil fuels through tax breaks and economic systems that encourage fossil-fueled growth and discourage development of renewables. Even ignoring the climate and health costs of fossil fuels, we are not paying the full price of fossil fuels. Massachusetts currently spends \$20 billion a year to import fossil fuels. Reducing our reliance on oil and gas will help keep the money in the Commonwealth and contribute our part to preventing the worst impacts of climate

A price on carbon accounts for the health and environmental costs of fossil fuels and would level the playing field in the energy industry and encourage both businesses and consumers to transition

to renewable energy and adopt more energy-efficient practices. It would grow the economy and reduce the staggering cost of being young in the age of climate change.

There are currently two bills in the Massachusetts legislature that aim to put a price on carbon pollution, now supported by close to half of all the legislators. The bills return most or all of the revenue gained through carbon pricing to consumers and businesses as rebates. The remaining revenue would fund critical climate mitigation and adaptation programs to minimize pollution and extreme weather events.

Furthermore, accelerating deployment of renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions would also improve Bay Staters' health at present and in the future. A study by the Harvard School of Public Health found that the proposed legislation would save nearly \$3 billion in health costs for Massachusetts by 2040.

In light of federal dismantling of the U.S. EPA and other climate change initiatives, state leadership is now more critical than ever for climate action. Massachusetts is a national leader on important issues - universal health care, marriage equality, and so much more. We have an opportunity to lead the country again in climate change legislation. For the sake of young people throughout Massachusetts and around the world, we have an obligation to lead the U.S. in carbon pricing.

Claire Halloran is a undergraduate at MIT studying materials science and engineering. She is a student leader in the MIT Energy Club.

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Karleigh Moore, Editor in Chief Vivian Zhong, Executive Editor Emma Bingham, and Opinion Editor Steven Truong.

Dissents are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority.

Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on *The Tech*'s Web site and/or printed or published in any other format or medium now known or later that becomes known. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

Guest columns are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

TO REACH US

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. Email is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by emailing eic@tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. The Tech can be found on the World Wide Web at http://thetech.com



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

IM T-shirts are a misogynistic microaggression

This past fall, I began my first semester at MIT as a PhD candidate in the Chemical Engineering Department. I joined the department's C level intramural basketball team and looked forward to returning to a sport I loved in a fun, low-pressure environment. One game, we arrived and met our opponents: a team of undergraduates — all men — called the Burton Third Bombers, all wearing matching orange shirts. On the back of each shirt, each player had their own nickname. Almost all were vulgar. Some were mostly inoffensive, though gross and unnecessary: "Autofellatio," "Fuck o' the Irish," and "FLPenis." But some were downright disgusting and misogynistic, such as "Pig Fucker" and "Alyssa Blows Me." We have since seen more around campus: "Blackout Blowjob" and "Pussy Paranoia."

When I first saw the shirts, I was shocked and infuriated. I expressed my feelings to my teammates and waited until the end of the game to approach the other team. After we finished playing, I pulled one of the opposing players aside, and a few of his teammates lingered around us to listen. I told them the shirts were offensive and unwarranted, and while they seemed like decent people, it was not reflected in these shirts. They never said "sorry," but rather mumbled some "ok's" and walked away. After the game, a group of them were exiting the building and did not realize I was walking behind them. I overheard them laughing about how funny the shirts were and how much they loved wearing them.

Our team reported the incident to Title IX. We then received an apology email from their team. They said they were "...deeply apologetic" and acknowledged that they previously had not considered "...how [the shirts] might make others feel." But they also said, "From now on we're going to encourage all members of the floor to think critically about wearing their shirts out in public." They obviously missed the point of our complaint entirely. The shirts should be thrown out; there is no appropriate situation in which they are acceptable to wear. I was then extremely angry to see that the floor continued to wear the shirts during the intramural three-on-three league during IAP and around the MIT campus.

These students were given ample opportunities to learn from the experience and to eradicate the problem. First, when I spoke

to them; then, when they apologized; and finally, in their future games. In all three instances, they failed to properly apologize, did not attempt to even remotely understand the issue and the consequences of their actions, and chose not to end the behavior moving forward.

While the word has been twisted by some due to its copious use over recent years, this is a prime example of a microaggresion. I came to have fun while playing a meaningless basketball game, but instead, I had to play side-by-side with these boys wearing misogynistic T-shirts, all while they laugh about it. Imagine how a person who has been a victim of sexual misconduct might react in the presence of a person wearing these T-shirts. More specifically, what about the impact on this hypothetical person's performance on an exam after having just seen the T-shirts? We must recognize the fundamental power play these men are using by wearing these shirts, a power play for which I cannot think of an equivalent that women could wield if they even wanted to.

I am disappointed in the GRTs, professors, and peers of these students who have allowed these shirts to be worn for months, if not longer. There have been many initiatives and much work done on an administrative level at MIT to foster an atmosphere of diversity and inclusion, but instances

like these threaten the progress that has been made. Such microaggressions are not unique to MIT. Issues relating to misogyny, patriarchal power structures, heteronormativity, and sexism are all on the forefront of international conversation. Instances like these — while they may seem minor or harmless — are both products and foundations of larger actions and overall societal problems of this nature.

MIT is obviously a very stressful environment for its entire community, and I believe that the extremely demanding nature of the academics and work prevents many of us from deeply engaging in extracurriculars devoted to topics such as race, gender, or socioeconomic equality. I urge students to think critically about their environment and the world at large, and hopefully conclude that many of these issues deserve their attention despite their busy lives. Starting clubs (and supporting those that exist), bringing in speakers, and just having more conversations about these difficult topics can do a lot. And while it is a whole topic of its own, I urge the administration to think deeply about what kind of people — not just students or researchers — they want their institution to produce and how the environment they have created is supporting or hindering holistic qualities and advances beyond STEM.

— Kara Rodby

STAFF COLUMN

Why the Aziz Ansari story and discussions of grey areas are central to the #MeToo movement

To develop more nuanced understandings of consent and prevent sexual assault, we need to discuss grey areas

By Fiona Chen
STAFF WRITER

Stories like that of Grace and Aziz Ansari are central to the fight against sexual assault and for gender equality.

Their story is one that is all too common. It begins with some flirting and a date, through which Ansari develops an expectation for sex, while Grace does not. It ends with Grace feeling disrespected and violated for having all of her signals and statements of discomfort towards sex ignored.

The piece has created a relatively large rift in the #MeToo movement. While many people have expressed support for Grace, many others have called the story detrimental to the movement's momentum or stated that it demonstrates the "excesses" of the movement in punishing innocent men. They have expressed sympathy for Aziz Ansari for failing to fully comprehend Grace's "mixed signals" and claimed that the account doesn't even approach sexual assault.

People's negative responses to the piece demonstrate that our society faces a deep issue, where people understand sexual assault in solely the most extreme terms and fail to recognize more quotidian forms of gendered violence.

It is easy for us to condemn the most egregious individuals for the most obviously non-consensual acts of sexual violence, such as Harvey Weinstein for raping multiple of his female co-workers or Kevin Spacey for making pedophilic advances towards multiple young men. Grace's story, however, demonstrates that a grey area exists in sexual assault and that violence within this grey area has become highly normalized. The fact that many people found that they could relate to Ansari and consequently jumped to call his actions ordinary, while many others

found that they could relate to Grace and shared similar stories demonstrates this normalization.

A lot of this normalization stems from our limited understandings of coercion. It's important to realize that coercion can operate subtly, and doesn't necessarily require direct physical actions or spoken threats. Rather, sexual violence stems most naturally from power imbalances produced by social norms and structures. Those power imbalances are deeply intertwined with gender stereotypes that teach men to be aggressively masculine rather than empathetic and teach women to be docile rather than outspoken. They result from the administrative control that established workplace bosses like Weinstein may hold over their new employees and the social status that famous celebrities like Ansari or Spacey may hold over

It is easy to say "no" and walk away from uncomfortable situations in theory, but it is not nearly as easy to do so in practice, particularly in situations in which one individual wields large amounts of power over the other. The people who call on Grace to speak out more about her own desires clearly fail to recognize that, all throughout their lives, women have been imbued with messages from the media and their bosses and their peers that they cannot do so. As Anna North describes in her article, this stigma is particularly true for women regarding romantic relationships and sex. Women are slut shamed for pursuing too much sex and labelled as prudes for pursuing too little. During sevitself male pleasure always takes precedence and female pleasure is almost seen as an afterthought. Men are taught that women saying "no" are really playing hard to get, and women who firmly do say "no" often face horrible consequences.

Consistently, however, Grace and other women with similar stories are told that they have not experienced "real" sexual assault and that the mere act of sharing their stories trivializes more "serious" incidents of sexual violence. These responses seem horribly misguided. The people who are calling out Aziz Ansari aren't equating his actions with those of Weinstein, Spacey, or any of the other individuals who have been accused (or convicted) of sexual assault. Each of these individual stories adds more nuance to the broader #MeToo movement about the avenues through which sexual assault can occur.

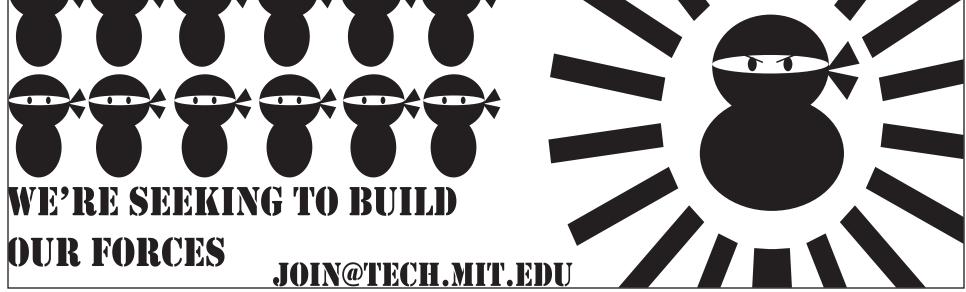
Solely condemning the most extreme instances of sexual assault is insufficient. It means that, at best, we punish some of the worst criminals in society. However, unless we are willing to also condemn the people like Ansari, who may not necessarily cross legal lines into sexual assault but clearly fail to fully consider their partners' comfort, we will never create a positive culture around sex in which all parties can find pleasure. Feminist efforts to prevent rape and sexual assault are necessary, but insufficient. We need to broaden our goal to actively promoting comfort in sex, as the majority of people most likely will never become rapists or sexual assaulters in the way that we're defining these terms now, but many people have been in situations similar to that of Grace

A first step towards combating this subtler form of sexual violence is to define consent as affirmative — as a freely given, continuous "yes." This definition creates a far clearer brightline for sexual violence that can eliminate a lot of issues with the existing grey area. Consequently, as Jaclyn Friedman argues in her article, we should be teaching this definition in sex ed programs at schools.

In the context of Grace's story, affirmative consent would mean that Ansari actively asks Grace whether or not she is comfortable with having sex rather than waiting for her to interject and say "no." The former action promotes a healthy relationship in which both parties can find satisfaction, while the latter makes miscommunication and discomfort highly likely.

Redefining consent obviously begs the question of how we should punish the multitudes of people who will newly fit the banner of "sexual assaulters." However, the answer to that question is still rather unclear. My gut tells me that this question isn't nearly as pressing as people are making it out to be. There are obviously flaws in our criminal justice system that make legal solutions to sexual assault insufficient and problematic, the most obvious ones being that sexual assault survivors rarely report their cases due to a lack of evidence or a fear of dragging out their pain, and that any new laws will likely be disproportionately applied to black populations.

For now, our focus should be on socially transforming the way we understand sexual violence. We need to listen to the people coming forward in the #MeToo movement and hold more nuanced discussions of consent and sexual violence within our schools and our workplaces. Gendered violence is not solely a question of legal structures, but rather has been written into the fabric of our society — it is ingrained in the stereotypes that we recall while buying clothes or writing scripts for movies and in the sex ed models that teach abstinence over n protection. In order to truly create an equal society, we need to more deeply examine the patriarchal power relations and social norms at play which make gendered violence possible.



6 THE TECH THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018

Tired of feeling like a particle in a box?



Come reach your infinite potential

KENSHO

Join a data science team with 50%+ physics & other science PhDs working at the nexus of technology, finance, and geopolitics.

@17 Dunster Street in Harvard Square.

EMAIL US mit@kensho.com

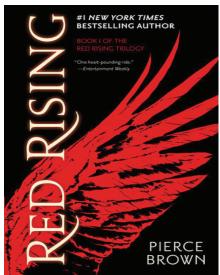
Thursday, January 25, 2018

The Tech 7

BOOK REVIEW

The first contemporary dystopian series that didn't make me cringe!

In fact, I think I might soon join the Red Rising fandom



COURTESY OF PENGUIN RANDOM HOU

Red Rising by Pierce Brown.

By Karleigh Moore

EDITOR

I discovered *Red Rising*, the first book of the *Red Rising* series, the same way I discover most books nowadays: Google Play Books suggestions. I read the synopsis, and it reminded me of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and of various contemporary, young adult dystopian novels. Don't get me wrong, YA dystopian books are very hit-or-miss, and it seems to be hard to come up with something new in this genre despite what would seem near infinite possibilities. I digress.

The teaser blurb had me interested

enough, and I had a \$5-off coupon, so I decided that that was good enough for me.

It turns out *Red Rising* was well-written, original, and not too cliche. To my delight, the book doesn't seem to be written mainly for a YA audience, despite the popularity of the dystopian YA genre. There's a fair amount of violence and cursing, so I wouldn't actually classify this as YA anyway. To put things on some sort of scale, the prose and story complexity far exceeds *The Hunger Games*, but it is definitely less sophisticated than *A Song of Ice and Fire*.

The setting is the somewhat distant future in the Milky Way. Humans have, predictably, let global warming get bad enough that we got the heck off of Earth and began to colonize other local planets and moons.

Though the story is heavily plot-driven, the characters and their relationships are complex, and Brown spends a sufficient amount of time and dialogue to fully develop them.

I sympathized with the main character, Darrow, right away. He's a Red, society's laboring lowest class. Darrow and his fellow Reds drill away in mines deep below the surface of Mars, collecting materials to help terraform Mars. They believe they work for the benefit humanity, which they think is trapped on a dying Earth waiting for the surface Mars to be habitable; if only things were that simple.

There's a *Hunger Games*-esque feature of life for Reds. They are divided into clans based on the mines they drill in, and they compete for "The Laurel" which contains

luxury items like blankets and food that isn't gruel. I was worried that the story was going to be a copycat at this point, but I kept reading.

We quickly discover that the Reds are being fed lies by the Golds, the elite ruling class of humanity. I'll keep the details of the lie and the truth obscure, because discovering the truth along with Darrow was one of the most enjoyable parts of this book. Let's just say there's more at play than terraforming planets, and it involves an entire galaxy of complex politics and class warfare.

Darrow is recruited by the Sons of Ares, an underground resistance group that rebels against the Golds and the class structure. Let's just say they send him to the surface of Mars on a very special mission, which requires him to grow and change in extreme ways.

Darrow is a great character, and he reminded me of Ender Wiggin in *Ender's Game*: a brilliant kid sucked out of his own world and subsumed into something bigger than he can possibly conceive of. There are even "Battle School"-esque trials that Darrow has to go through, which are both exciting and gruesome to read about

In an above-the-surface world that's practically alien to him, Darrow has to figure out who he can trust. He isn't always as wise as I hoped (you know, for his own sake), but he is endearingly earnest, and often thinks with his heart. Darrow is betrayed so many times, and this made it dangerous to get attached to any character except him, though I enjoyed most of

Red Rising
By Pierce Brown
Published by Del Rey

the other characters.

The class structure reminded me of the one presented in *Brave New World*, as members of the different castes, had genetics specifically suited to the labors and traits associated with their role in society. There are Reds, Violets, Obsidians, Blues, and other colors, and their eye and hair color often matches that of their class. Reds are small and meek with an average life-span of 40 years. Obsidians, the class of warriors, are typically ignorant and have large, muscular bodies. Golds are larger and stronger than most Obsidians and possess special cells that rejuvenate, allowing them to live unnaturally long lives.

I liked the first book so much that I immediately purchased the next two, *Golden Son* and *Morning Star* (coming from me, this is a huge sign of commitment). I was ecstatic that *Iron Gold*, the fourth book in the series, just came out this month. And there's a fifth book due this September. I feel like a spoiled nerd.

I'm at the beginning of the third book, and very pleased so far. I binged through the first book in a day, the second book lagged a bit in the beginning and middle, but a lot happens in the second half, so stick with it!



THE PLUS PLUS

'Excuse me sir ... I mean ma'am ... uh ... I mean ... sir?'

I'm a smart, independent human and I don't need your gender stereotypes

By Karleigh Moore

Thinking about and talking about gender can be really difficult. It can be hard to find the right words for complex and abstract feelings — I don't even know how to express all my thoughts about gender. I think if conversations about gender identity and non-binary-ness were prevalent when I was younger, I would've immediately gravitated towards adopting a nonbinary label. Maybe it's the MIT bubble, or maybe the world's becoming a more open place. I'm not sure. But I'm really glad there are productive and supportive discussions about gender being had these days. It's given me a new way to think about things that greatly affected the course of my childhood.

Growing up, I was a "tomboy," which Wikipedia defines as "a girl who exhibits characteristics or behaviors considered typical of a boy."

As a kid, I joined a karate dojo. I played with Hot Wheels cars and Star Wars action figures. I spent my recesses playing football and basketball with "the boys." I always asked for the "boy's toy" with my Happy Meals. (I hate how toys and activities are gendered, by the way, but people called me a tomboy for preferring these to ballet lessons and Barbies.) I still cringe when called "princess," "angel," or other pet names typically reserved for girls.

I know that many families are not that supportive when their kids deviate from traditional gender stereotypes. Luckily for me, my parents supported my activities, preference for having short hair, and "masculine" clothing style. They got me Obi-Wan Kenobi and Red Power Ranger costumes for Halloween. (One of my little sisters went as Queen Amidala and the Pink Ranger, respectively. We were pretty cute, if I do say so myself.) My parents bought me legos and superhero toys and didn't mind that most of my friends were boys. I'm thankful for their support.

However, while I felt completely accepted at home, I felt a bit different at school. As a short-haired elementary schooler wearing boys' clothing, I was often mistaken for a boy, and my female schoolmates would sometimes be startled to see me in the girls' bathroom. Being misgendered as a kid used to bother me so much that I refused to use the bathroom at school unless it was unisex and single occupancy.

I distinctly remember the first time I ever stepped into a store to intentionally purchase clothes from the "girls" section. I was just about to enter the fifth grade, extremely self-conscious about my boyish appearance. So I traded soccer jerseys for blouses and (what would now be considered unisex) Star Wars tees for floral, fitted shirts. I remember feeling grateful that my family purchased a whole new wardrobe for me (at my request), but I also remember feeling even more self-conscious wearing girlier clothing. It never felt like it fit properly. I couldn't stand looking at myself in the mirror.

That year, I decided to let my hair grow out even though I didn't like the way it looked or felt. As middle school and high school came, I slowly incorporated more of the boyish clothing I preferred into my closet, but I kept my long hair to avoid being misgendered. I even dated a guy in high school who once told me he'd break up with me if I cut my hair. That relationship didn't last long. Before I left for MIT, though, I decided I would cut off my hair and donate the nearly foot-long strands to Locks of Love.

There are two people whom I trust to cut my hair. They're both family friends who are professional hairstylists, and they never give me the slightest amount of trouble when I ask for super short haircuts. So, when I came to Cambridge, I figured I'd wait out the school year and get a haircut when I visited home at the start of each summer. This was for two reasons. First, I knew that back home, my hair would be cut exactly to my liking: my bangs just right, the sides tapered just so. I am super picky about my hair and knew these familiar hairstylists would get it right. Second, emails sent to my dorm mailing list revealed that some local barbers flat-out refused to give woman haircuts shorter than a bob. That really freaked me out. I was astounded that a hairstylist would refuse someone a haircut based on such discriminatory reasons.

The months progressed, and my hair grew longer. I was impatient for the summer to come and inches of my hair to disappear, so I started cutting my own hair. I began with the child-sized safety scissors (lol) I had among my school supplies. Eventually, I bought professional haircutting and thinning scissors. I tried to remember how the stylists back home cut my hair, and attempted to recreate those motions and cuts. I even watched a few YouTube tutorials, but that's all I was going off of. It took *hours* and a masterful set-up of several mirrors to make sure the back was even. I'd cut my hair every two weeks or so to keep it at my preferred length. This past year, I invested in clippers, and it has changed my life — what took hours now takes 20 minutes, and that's only when I'm paying attention to detail.

As for clothing, during a "Spring Clean-



Seemingly 'normal' components of your day can be uncomfortable for folks questioning their gender.

ing" session this fall, I realized just how many women's clothing items I had acquired over the years that I absolutely never wear. Dresses, things to wear under dresses, things to wear over dresses, heels, flats, low-cut shirts, etc. I decided that there was honestly no point in me keeping these items because I would frankly never wear them under any circumstances, thank you very much. So I sent some clothes to my sisters and donated the rest to charity, and wow did I feel liberated. I've since stopped paying attention to whether I'm shopping in the "men's" or "women's" section, and I refuse to feel weird about it because my current style makes me really happy.

Frankly, not caring what gender a piece of clothing is labelled for has allowed me to optimize for whatever features I want: fit, style, material, pattern, design, etc. I'd say that now, about 80 percent of my clothes are from the guys' section because I tend to like the styles, materials, and patterns there. Pants, though, are always a toughie. Mens' pants have larger pockets (read: any pockets), but women's pants fit my curves better. I wear shoes that are relatively unisex like Vans or Converse. I don't wear makeup or much jewelry, and my main fashion staples are beanie hats. Overall, I've been told that my look is pretty androgynous.

But my discomfort with traditionally "female" things extends to more than just appearance, shopping habits, and hobbies.

A lot of male-female couple dynamics you see in TV shows that "the guy in the relationship" does, I do. I'm the one to politely inform the waiter that my partner's dish didn't come out as requested (he's super shy, and it is adorable). I'm the one having the firm conversations with Comcast about the discrepancy on our bill. That kind of thing. We evenly split household chores and errands, and "traditional gender roles" don't factor at all into the way we run our household. We both cook. I pick up the dirty clothes he leaves around the house, and he drives when we need a car for outings. He does the laundry and takes the cat to the vet. I shovel the snow, and if we had a lawn, I'd definitely be the one to mow it.

I recently got engaged to this amazing man, my partner of five years. He proposed to me and got me a shiny engagement ring, which I love and picked out myself! Learning the history behind engagement rings has lead me to insist that I get him an engagement ring too (he agreed enthusiastically) and now I'm in the process of planning a proposal of my own.

When we're married, if I change my last name at all, it will be to hyphenate it. I'm not very fond of change, which is part of the reason I want to keep my current last name, and a lot of the reason I will be keeping female pronouns rather than adopting more neutral ones even though I probably fall closer to "non-binary" than to "female" in gender-label-land.

I still get misgendered with some amount of frequency, but that doesn't bother me very much/at all anymore. I'm at peace with who I am and how I express my gender, but it wasn't easy to get to this point. I can only hope that other folks who question their gender or have non-traditional ways of expressing it find support - you certainly have mine!

BY THE NUMBERS

16 things that happened while I was trying to cook for myself

AKA signs that I should return to the meal plan

By Patricia Gao STAFF WRITER

I tried to stay on the meal plan. I really did. But thanks to my whacked-out sleep schedule, a penchant for naps, and tendency to make everything a Learning Experience (not to mention consistent free food from The Tech), cooking for myself was a much better option ... or so I thought. Here are the highlights of my first semester off of the meal plan:

I lugged a gallon of milk back from Star Market about a thousand different times.

I almost set the fire alarm off at 3:30 a.m. (Pro tip: wax paper is not for baking.)

I did set the fire alarm off with steam from a bag of popcorn.

Broccoli got moldy.

I made awkward eye contact with the front desk workers after hauling in a giant

bag of delivered food.

My suitemate dropped a bowl and it shattered into a million pieces, none larger than a fingernail. Though we cleaned up most of the shards, we are still finding them (not on purpose, unfortunately, but embedded in our feet).

I found out that cutting pineapple is the most satisfying thing I've ever done.

Someone left old milk in the fridge (it was thrown out before it could compete with Pecker's*, though).

I screamed. A lot.

I got used to the burners on my kitchen stove. Most of them are tilted, and one of them always smokes (possibly because I dropped a potato in it once).

Dinner happened at midnight, and, accordingly, breakfast happened at noon.

My suitemate and I bought seven limes for a dollar at Haymarket, but we only went through two before they started going bad.

We tried to throw the rotting limes out, but one of our friends insisted on keeping them. They have since hollowed out and remain in his room.

I made my own Cosmic Brownies.

I tried to break an egg like a Super Skilled Chef (one-handedly) and failed (turns out I'm only a Moderately Skilled Chef).

I got mysterious finger cuts, most likely from reaching into stacks of cooking utensils that included unsheathed knives.

I didn't eat a vegetable for a whole day, and it made me sad. (Mom was right.)

All in all, though, I had fun cooking for myself. I learned how to make apple cider, for example, and how not to botch (read: burn the living daylights out of) fudge. But maybe it's time to give the meal plan another go - that would be easier on the

*Pecker in Random Hall owns a carton

of 23-year-old milk.

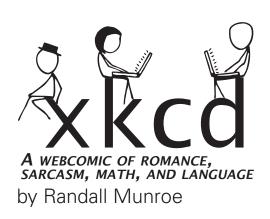


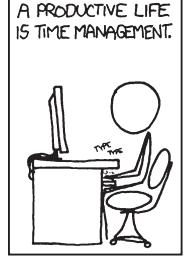
JOIN@TECH.MIT.EDU

21×	29+			42×		23+		!
ļ		<u> </u>			-	_		
	27×			16×				9
4	-	10+	-	-	35×		12×	
•		104			35%		12*	
54×	3–	-	96×				14×	
		21+		28+		21+		
	42×	5-	-				5-	
7+	-				14+		19+	
		27+	<u> </u>		19+			3-
12+		-		3	-		6	-

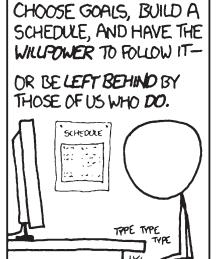
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

[874] Time Management





THE KEY TO LEADING





FUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUN FUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFUNFU

Eagles

Solution, page 12

			3			8	5	
	3			5				1
		6		4	1	3		
	4			6		1	2	
	6						8	
	8	3		7			4	
		9	5	1		2		
3				8			1	
	1	2			7			

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution, page 12

1		5				4		7
				9			3	
		7	1		5	6		
		6			8	3		9
3				7				6
4		8	9			2		
		1	4		9	7		
	2			5				
7		3				9		4

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Top of the Morning by Sandy Fein

Solution, page 21

ACROSS

- 1 Droops
- 5 Air conditioning measures: Abbr.
- 9 Con game
- 13 Without any additives
- 14 Make simpler
- 15 Worker with circus lions
- 17 A Great Lake
- 18 Neighborhood 19 Orchard fruit
- 20 Goat of the zodiac
- 22 Leans to one side
- 23 Become inedible
- 24 Most adorable
- 25 Auto mechanic's container
- 29 March composer John Philip _
- 31 Largest continent
- 32 Voice quality
- 33 The Dalai _
- 37 Short-term office worker, for short
- 38 Thinks (over)
- 39 Teheran's land
- 40 Ooze (through)

- 41 Online auction site
- 42 Riverbank deposit
- 43 Say out loud
- 45 "Hot" Mexican food
- 47 Cease-fires
- 50 America's uncle
- 51 Fraction of a pound
- 52 Enchant
- 58 Call off a project
- 59 Frequently, informally
- 60 At any time 61 Goosebumps author R.L.
- 62 Manufacture
- 63 Stadium level
- 64 Aroma
- 65 Ship's docking place
- 66 Racetrack calculation

DOWN

- 1 Blueprint detail, for short
- 2 Subtle glow
- 3 Grasp tightly
- 4 Fortune-teller
- 5 Lighthouse's light 6 __ cards (4 Down's deck)

- 7 Computer operator
 - 8 Actor Penn or Connery
 - 9 Maintain the __ quo 10 America's economic
 - system 11 More than enough
 - 12 Thaws
 - 16 Take a break
 - 21 401(k) alternative
 - 24 Pool sticks
 - 25 Cheerios ingredients
 - 26 "Now it's clear"
 - 27 Green citrus fruit
 - 28 Frothy coffee drink
 - 29 Of the sun
 - 30 Merely
 - 32 Toothpaste container
 - 34 Operatic solo
 - 35 Shopping center
 - 36 Poker pot starter 38 Big Apple baseball team
 - 44 Be about to fall
 - 45 Become ragged
 - 46 "What ___, a mindreader?"
 - 47 Tips of socks

18 19 20 22 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 33 34 35 36 39 42 47 | 48 | 49

52 53 58 59 60 62 63 65

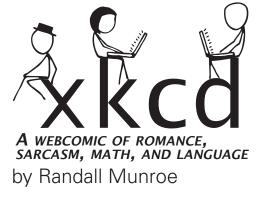
- 48 Approach quickly
- 49 Dismantled
- 50 Said out loud
- 52 Summer getaway for kids
- 53 Jai __
- 54 Presidential rejection

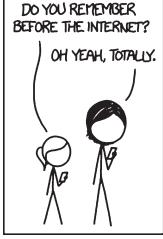
16

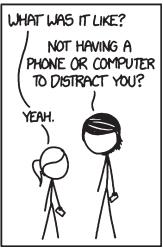
- 55 Enthusiastic
- 56 __ off (started a golf game)

57 Makes a mistake

[1348] Before the Internet







IT WAS SO. BORING. ALL THE TIME. I JUST SAT THERE. IT WAS THE WORST.

BUT WASN'T IT, LIKE, MORE FULFILLING? ENGAGING? WASN'T WORTH IT. I STILL GET BORED. NOT LIKE WE DID.

We watched DAYTIMETV. Do you realize how soul-crushing it was? I'd rather eat an iPad than go back to watching daytime TV.

Thursday, January 25, 2018

THE TECH 11

23+	 	1 1 1	24+	 	 	22+	; ; ;	
12+	-		6	Ť	126×			11+
	- 384×			┪᠁		315×		_
	-	105×			┥	-	168×	
280×			27×	-	64 ×		3–	<u> </u>
5	-	12x	-	32×		-		21×
18×		 	4		 90×			_
24+		36×	14×	48×		-	32×	
	 			6	 	- 1	┪	5
	!							

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.











WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM



MIT women's basketball faces off against Clark University.

SPORTS BLITZ

Men's Track and Field (No. 8) finished first at the Bowdoin Invitational, with several first, second, and thrird place finishes across the board in the events.

Men's Volleyball (2-0) started the season off in style as they sweeped the home side Emmanuel College and later that evening, took care of business against Alvernia.

Men's Swimming and Div**ing (No. 4, 7-1)** had no issues at Williams College as they came out with convincing victories over no. 6 NYU and the home team No. 17 Williams.

Women's **Basketball** (11-5, 7-2 NEWMAC) earned a convincing win over Clake University, led by a pointsrebounds double-double by Taylor V'Dovec '19.

Men's Basketball (15-2, 5-1 NEWMAC) got back to winning ways with a comeback win against Babson College,

capped off with three-pointers by Cameron Korb '19 and Dakota Pierce '19 in overtime.

Men's Squash (13-3) are on a run of winning, marred only by a close loss to Colby College. They will begin a homestand this Friday against Middlebury College.

Football lost their head coach, Chad Martinovich, to The University of Rochester. Martinovich completed his ninth season as the head coach at MIT in 2017, guiding the Engineers to a 7-3 overall record and a 5-2 mark in NEWMAC play. He came to Cambridge in 2009 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), where he served as the defensive coordinator for four years. Athletic director Julie Soriero and the Engineers wish Coach Martinovich nothing but the best in his future endeavors. A national search for his successor at MIT will begin immediately.

Know something important we should write about?

(We probably don't know about it.)

Let us know.

news@tech.mit.edu

Solution to Rocky

		110	Πρα	ge J			
8	9	2	7	6	4	1	5
3	4				8	5	9
9	1				5	2	6
5	6	8	4	3	1	7	2
2	3	5	1	9	7	4	8
6	7	9	5	4	2	8	3
1	2	4	9	8	6	3	7
7	8	1	6			9	4
4	5	7	3	2	9	6	1
	5 2 6 1 7	3 4 9 1 5 6 2 3 6 7 1 2 7 8	3 4 6 9 1 3 5 6 8 2 3 5 6 7 9 1 2 4 7 8 1	8 9 2 7 3 4 6 2 9 1 3 8 5 6 8 4 2 3 5 1 6 7 9 5 1 2 4 9 7 8 1 6	8 9 2 7 6 3 4 6 2 1 9 1 3 8 7 5 6 8 4 3 2 3 5 1 9 6 7 9 5 4 1 2 4 9 8 7 8 1 6 5	3 4 6 2 1 8 9 1 3 8 7 5 5 6 8 4 3 1 2 3 5 1 9 7 6 7 9 5 4 2 1 2 4 9 8 6 7 8 1 6 5 3	8 9 2 7 6 4 1 3 4 6 2 1 8 5 9 1 3 8 7 5 2 5 6 8 4 3 1 7 2 3 5 1 9 7 4 6 7 9 5 4 2 8 1 2 4 9 8 6 3 7 8 1 6 5 3 9

Solution to Morning

_					fro	om	ра	ge	10					
S	Α	G	S		В	T	U	S		S	C	Α	M	
Р	U	R	Е		Ε	Α	S	E		Т	Α	M	Е	R
Е	R	I	Е		Α	R	Е	Α		Α	Р	P	L	Е
C	Α	P	R		C	0	R	N		T	I	L	Т	S
				R	0	T			C	U	T	Е	S	T
0	I	L	С	Α	N		S	0	U	S	Α			
Α	S	ı	Α			T	0	N	Ε		L	Α	M	Α
Т	Е	M	Р		М	U	L	L	S		I	R	Α	N
S	Ε	Ε	Р		Е	В	Α	Υ			S	I	L	T
			U	Т	Т	Е	R		T	Α	М	Α	L	Е
T	R	U	С	Е	S			S	Α	M				
0	U	N	С	Ε		C	Α	Р	T	ı	V	Α	Т	Ε
Е	N	D	I	T		Α	L	0	T		Е	٧	Е	R
S	T	T	Ν	Е		М	Α	K	Е		T	T	Е	R
	0	D	0	R		Р	I	Е	R		0	D	D	S
						_								

Solution to Eagles

			11011	i pag	10 10			
1	2	7	3	9	6	8	5	4
4	3	8	7	5	2	9	6	1
5	9	6	8	4	1	3	7	2
7	4	5	9	6	8	1	2	3
9	6	1	4	2	3	5	8	7
2	8	3	1	7	5	6	4	9
6	7	9	5	1	4	2	3	8
3	5	4	2	8	9	7	1	6
8	1	2	6	3	7	4	9	5

Solution to Fly

						-		_
1	9	5	3	6	2	4	8	7
6	4	2	8	9	7	5	3	1
8	3	7	1	4	5	6	9	2
2	7	6	5	1	8	3	4	9
3	5	9	2	7	4	8	1	6
4	1	8	9	3	6	2	7	5
5	6	1	4	8	9	7	2	3
9	2	4	7	5	3	1	6	8
7	8	3	6	2	1	9	5	4

Solution to Swoop

1 3 7 5 9 6 4 2 8 2 4 8 6 1 7 5 3 9 4 6 1 8 3 9 7 5 2 8 3 1 5 2 9 7 4 1 5 3 7 4 2 9 6 7 2 9 4 1 8 6 3 9 2 6 4 8 5 3 1 7 3 5 9 7 2 8 6 4 1

7 9 4 2 6 3 1 8 5

Are you a tetris ninja?

Use your powers for good!

newsnews newsnews newsnews news

...by joining the production department at

The Tech! join@tech.mit.edu on opnfu nnews on opnfu nnews on opnfu nnews n fu n fu nnewsnews n fu n fu nnewsnews

from new_skills import *

learnMarketableJobSkills(): return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python, PHP

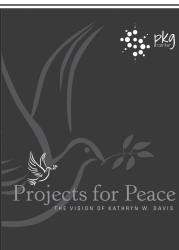


Are you dying to tell someone your latest ephiphany?

Write about it!

Join Campus Life @ The Tech!

E-mail join@tech.mit.edu



Undergrads! Apply now for a \$10,000 fellowship to implement a peace-building project this summer!

Apply by Fri, Feb 2, 12 pm More info: bit.ly/davis-peace

Questions? Email Alison at hynd@mit.edu.

PKG Center

IMPACTS OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET



A Closer Look for **Massachusetts Residents** and Institutions

FRIDAY JANUARY 26 1:00 PM

Room 4-163

Join us for a substantive afternoon program that will examine the implications of the new federal budget.

Schedule:

Key Features of the 2018 Federal Budget | 1:00pm Impacts on Housing and Healthcare | 2:00pm

Education and Research | 2:45pm

Transit, Energy and Environment | 3:15pm Resisting and Responding | 4:15pm

Full list of speakers and more at radius.mit.edu

Register at http://www.peoplesengagement. org/forumregistration



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY